

Re: Establishment of a Length of Service Award Program

The Division of Local Government Services would like to confirm the phone conversation between yourself and the LOSAP Program Manager Soyini Wilson regarding LOSAP budget allocations.

The Division is pleased to assist the parties. Please be aware however, as an administrative agency, the Division of Local Government Services is not authorized to provide legal advice. Rather, we are offering to provide you with direction in helping you to interpret the LOSAP law.

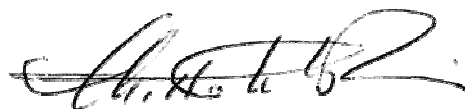
Our advice is that once the sponsoring agency is determined, the municipalities enter into separate inter-local service agreements with the lead agency to participate in the LOSAP. The municipalities would then need to devise a formula for determining the annual LOSAP contributions that each would make to the sponsoring agency.

It is also necessary to create the authority to budget money for LOSAP payments, which is the statutorily required referendum. An approved referendum is a way for the voters to agree to budget and make LOSAP payments without regard to the annual vagaries of the budget process. The referendum also serves as protection to the volunteer members, guaranteeing the contributions for the services they have rendered.

Given the potential complexity of creating a referendum involving multiple partners, the Division would be happy to assist the municipal officials in developing the necessary question and explanatory statement.

We applaud and commend the parties for their interest in creating a joint program to recognize the many dedicated volunteers that serve the municipalities. We appreciate that the process to make this work is complex and we are happy to assist you in achieving your goals. Please do not hesitate to contact this office, (609) 984-2105, if we can provide additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew U. Watkins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew U. Watkins, Director
Division of Local Government Services

MUW: SW